

# The Unique Characteristic of the Second Radical - عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ - of the Three Letter Arabic Verb

Arabic verbs are generally composed of three letters. The scholars of the Arabic grammar call these letters as “**THREE RADICALS**”. Verbs composed of three radicals are called **فَعْلٌ ثَلَاثَيٌّ**.

The verb **فَعَلَ** (he did) has been adopted by the scholars of Arabic grammar as the NORM ( Pattern, Model, Archetype, Standard or **وزَانٌ** for the **فَعْلُ الْثَلَاثَيٌّ** . The letter “**فَ**” represents the first radical, “**عَ**” the second radical and “**لَ**” the third radical.

**كَتَبَ** (he wrote); here **كَ** is the first radical or **فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , **تَ** is the second radical or **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** and **بَ** is the third radical or **لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ** .

Now the important fact is that in all the three letter verbs in their root form, which is the **past tense** (**الْفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي**) ,

The **first** radical - **فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , is **always Fatah** .

The **second** radical - **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , may have **any** of the three vowel signs: **Fatah, Kasrah or Dummah**.

The **third** radical - **لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ** , is again **always Fatah**.

**ذَهَبَ** , for instance, has **Fatah** on the second radical, **سَمِعَ** has a **Kasrah** and **كَرُبَ** has a **Dummah**.

On the first and third radicals ( **فَاءُ الْكَلِمَةِ وَ لَامُ الْكَلِمَةِ** ) the above verbs have **Fatah**.

Now the same characteristic of the second radical - **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** - of the past tense - **الْفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي** - will be

observed when the three letter verb is put in the present tense - **الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** . That is to say that in the

**عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** - **الْفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ** - may have a **Fatah, Kasrah or Dummah**.

In other words, one can say that in the three letter verbs “**all the action takes place on the second radical** **عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ** ”. This is very nicely and beautifully explained in the following verses.

# What is This Riddle in the Form of a Poem?

Can you figure out the subject matter of it?

فَتْحٌ ضَمٌ

فَتْحٌ كَسْرٌ

فَتْحَتَانٍ

ضَمٌ ضَمٌ

كَسْرٌ فَتْحٌ

كَسْرَتَانٍ

Clue: It deals with the Second Radical – عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ

Are you able to figure out what the poem really means? Try to memorize it.

# The Unique Characteristic of the Second Radical - عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ - of the Three Letter Arabic Verb

Fatah will change into Dummah	ضَمٌّ	فَتْحٌ	A changes into U
Fatah will change into Kasrah	كَسْرٌ	فَتْحٌ	A changes into I
Or Fatah will remain Fatah	فَتْحَتَانِ		A remains same A
Dummah will always be Dummah	ضَمٌّ	ضَمٌّ	U will always be U
Kasrah will change into Fatah	فَتْحٌ	كَسْرٌ	I will change into A
Or it will remain same	كَسْرَتَانِ		Or I will remain same I

أَبْوَابٌ = Groups.

If in the الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي there is a Fatah on the عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ

الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ it can change into Dummah in the

نَصَرٌ : يَنْصُرُ for example (Group A – U) or

it can change into Kasrah

صَرَبٌ : يَصْرِبُ for example (Group A – I) or

it can remain same

فَتَحٌ : يَفْتَحُ for example (Group A – A) .

But if it has Dummah on the الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي in عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ then in الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ

it will always have Dummah

كَرْمٌ : يَكْرُمُ for example (Group U – U) .

If the الفِعْلُ الْمَاضِي has a Kasrah in عَيْنُ الْكَلِمَةِ

الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ it will change into Fatah in

سَمِعٌ : يَسْمَعُ for example (Group I – A) or

it will remain same

حَسِبٌ : يَحْسِبُ for example (Group I – I) .

## الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ - The Conjugation of the Present Tense

	عَلَامَةُ رَفِعَةِ	الْفَاعِلُ	Suffix	Prefix (*)	
He writes	Dummah	But it can also be present in the sentence Hidden = مُسْتَترٌ	NIL	يَ	يَكْتُبُ هُوَ
They (2 men) write	ن	‘Alif’ of Dual ا (الْفُ) - أَلْفُ الْمُشَّدِّدِ	انِ	يَ	يَكْتَبَانِ هُمَا
They (more than 2 men) write	ن	‘Waw’ of Plural و (وَوْ) - وَوْ الْجَمَاعَةِ	وْنَ	يَ	يَكْتُبُونَ هُمْ
She writes	Dummah	But it can also be present in the sentence Hidden - مُسْتَترٌ	NIL	تَ	تَكْتُبُ هِيَ
They (2 women) write	ن	‘Alif’ of Dual ا (الْفُ) - أَلْفُ الْمُشَّدِّدِ	انِ	تَ	تَكْتَبَانِ هُمَا
They (more than 2 women) write	مَبِينٌ This form does NOT change	‘Nun’ of the women kind نَ - نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ	نَ	يَ	يَكْتُبَنِ هُنَّ
You (man) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَترٌ	NIL	تَ	تَكْتُبُ أَنْتَ
You (2 men) write	ن	‘Alif’ of Dual ا (الْفُ) - أَلْفُ الْمُشَّدِّدِ	انِ	تَ	تَكْتَبَانِ أَنْتَمَا
You (more than 2 men) write	ن	‘Waw’ of Plural و (وَوْ) - وَوْ الْجَمَاعَةِ	وْنَ	تَ	تَكْتُبُونَ أَنْتُمْ
You (woman) write	ن		يَنِ	تَ	تَكْتُبَنِ أَنْتِ
You (2 women) write	ن	‘Alif’ of Dual ا (الْفُ) - أَلْفُ الْمُشَّدِّدِ	انِ	تَ	تَكْتَبَانِ أَنْتَمَا
You (more than 2 women) write	مَبِينٌ This form does NOT change	‘Nun’ of the women kind نَ - نُونُ النِّسْوَةِ	نَ	تَ	تَكْتُبَنِ أَنْتُنَّ
I (male or female) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَترٌ	NIL	أَ	أَكْتُبُ أَنَا
We (male or female) write	Dummah	Always Hidden Hidden = مُسْتَترٌ	NIL	نَ	نَكْتُبُ نَحْنُ

(\*) Sign of mudaria (عَلَامَةُ الْمُضَارِعِ) which comes in the form of Prefixes i.e. يَ, تَ, أَ, نَ.

To negate (النَّفِيُّ) حَرْفُ النَّفِيِّ, the particle لا, is brought before it. For

example: The girl does not read: لا تَقْرَأُ الْبَنْتُ .

The الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ also contains the meaning of future in itself along with present but prefixing it with (حَرْفُ الْإِسْتِقْبَالِ) سَوْفَ or سَ makes it for future only. For example:

سَوْفَ يَكْتُبُ الطُّلَابُ or سَيَكْتُبُ الطُّلَابُ .

For the expression may write, the word قد is placed before الفِعْلُ الْمُضَارِعُ for example: I may go to his house: قد تَكْتُبُ إِلَيْهِ or she may write to him: قد أَذْهَبَ إِلَى بَيْتِهِ